

**West Hartford Substance Abuse Prevention Commission (SAPC)
Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2014**

Attendees: Mary Andrews, Jackie Colon, Cynthia Crockett-Crowshaw, Helen Drohan, Shellie Giroux, Jamahl Hines, Marc Kotler, Grace Johnson, Dan Jordan, Simranjit Kaur, Yifrah Kaminer, Joe Kalache, Marc Kotler, John Mancini, Suzie McConnell, Justina Navalli, Jeff Sousa, Pat Tyler

Welcome / Introductions / Approve Minutes / Early Departures / Announcements

SAPC Coordinator, Pat Tyler, ran the meeting in Jeff Bersin's absence. She welcomed everyone and introductions were made. The meeting notes from the September and October meetings were approved.

Overview of Governor's Prevention Partnership / Upcoming Events – Amanda Johnston

Item tabled. Amanda was called to another meeting unexpectedly.

Discussion of PTO Involvement with Middle School Community of Concern – PTO and SAPC Members

Jeff Sousa brought the group up to speed regarding the status of the Middle School Community of Concern. The "Not so Fast" event for parents was held last year and focused on teen driving. At that event, a list of parents interested in getting involved in future parent related activities was generated. Jeff agreed to contact these parents regarding scheduling a follow-up meeting. The idea of having a CoC representative serve on the SAPC on a regular basis was discussed as well.

Present Results of Parent Survey / Discussion of Strategies for Sharing Information with Parents / Next Steps with Household Initiative

Dan Jordan from the Institute for Community Research presented the results of the 2014 High School Parent Survey related to substance use. Approximately 400 parents responded, with similar amounts from Conard and Hall. There was discussion about distributing the survey to private schools next time.

A major theme was the need for enhanced and more effective parent/child communication. An idea was presented regarding a CoC event involving high school teens talking with middle school parents regarding talking with their children about substance use. There was discussion about methods to report the survey results including articles in the WH News; posting the Power Point on school websites; email blasts; and parent events. It was stressed that picking out key points might be more easily to digest than the entire Power Point presentation. There was discussion about sponsoring an event related to parents hosting parties and the consequences of doing so. In addition, a relational approach of parents talking with one another about different scenarios they encounter with their children and ways to solve them with the guidance of a skilled facilitator was suggested.

New Business

Yifrah Kaminer distributed brochures on a new study being conducted by the UConn Health Center focusing on teen substance use and depression. They will be accepting referrals later this month.

Grace Johnson followed up with several pharmacies in the area regarding whether or not they collect unused medications. Grace will offer more details at the next meeting since we ran out of time.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Tyler

November 14, 2014

